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Conservatives Applaud Bush for Rejecting Pork-Barrel Spending in Supplemental Appropriations Bill

President's Actions Set Tone for Year-End Spending Debate

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ), Chairman of the House Republican Study Committee, a caucus of over 70 House conservatives released the following statement:

“The members of the Republican Study Committee applaud President Bush for defending the interests of American taxpayers by deciding not to spend \$5.1 billion in so-called ‘contingent emergency spending’ included in the Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act,” stated Representative Shadegg.

Section 1404 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act requires the President to determine whether to spend \$5.1 billion in so-called “contingent emergency spending.” However, according to the language in Section 1404, the President must spend all of the \$5.1 billion or none of it. This is an unprecedented provision, since the President normally has the ability to agree to contingent emergency spending on a case-by-case basis.

Representative Shadegg added, “None of the items included in the \$5.1 billion contingency were originally requested by the President. Items added to the President’s request included such things as \$2 million to store worms in alcohol at the Smithsonian.”

On August 2, the members of the Republican Study Committee released a statement (<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Supp02SigPR.PDF>) urging the President to reject the entire \$5.1 billion in emergency spending if he determined that none of the \$5.1 billion was essential to either the war on terrorism or homeland security.

Representative Shadegg continued, “With increasing federal deficits now estimated at over \$150 billion, a war, and economic uncertainty, the government cannot afford to spend money on items that are not absolutely essential. The President’s announcement sends a clear signal to those who want to continue to waste more and more of the taxpayers money that excessive spending will not be tolerated. The members of the Republican Study Committee will continue to work with the President to hold the line on excessive and wasteful Washington spending.”

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